

Executive Summary

The General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan (GCIP) addresses issues identified by the White House Task Force *Review of the U.S. Counterdrug Intelligence Centers and Activities*. The Review was commissioned in September 1997 by the Attorney General, the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI), the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of National Drug Control Policy, and was supported by the Secretaries of Defense, Transportation, and State. The Review was mandated in the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act of 1998 and the 1998 Intelligence Authorization Act.

The GCIP reflects the collective need to clarify and make systemic improvements to U.S. drug intelligence and information programs. Its goal is to establish a drug intelligence framework that supports operators in the field, improves Federal, state, and local relationships, and responds to policymaker needs as they formulate counterdrug policy, taskings, and resource decisions.

The GCIP provides a means for the law enforcement and intelligence communities to resolve drug intelligence issues and to aid National Drug Control Program agencies in satisfying performance measures of effectiveness. When implemented, the GCIP will facilitate the appropriate and timely exchange of information between the intelligence and drug law enforcement communities, taking care to respect law and regulation, but will not change agency authorities or the laws governing interagency relationships.

The following summarizes the 73 GCIP action items. To the extent that these action items delineated in the GCIP have resource implications, they must be weighed against other priorities. Therefore, the action items with resource implications for future years will need to be vetted through the normal budget process. Participating agencies will need to identify funding options to accommodate the Plan's objectives.

National Counterdrug Intelligence Coordination: Two collaborative coordinating structures, the Counterdrug Intelligence Coordinating Group (CDICG) and its supporting staff, the Counterdrug Intelligence Executive Secretariat (CDX), are created. The CDICG is composed of 13 representatives from Cabinet elements and law enforcement agencies with drug intelligence responsibilities, is co-chaired by law enforcement and intelligence officials, and receives policy guidance from the President's Council on Counter-Narcotics, as well as from the *National Drug Control Strategy*. The CDX will be led by a senior law enforcement officer, will have a senior intelligence officer as its deputy, and will have a full-time staff of experts detailed from participating departments and agencies.

National Centers: The existing program priorities and mission statements for three of the four national centers with counterdrug intelligence missions require further definition to improve coordination and eliminate unnecessary duplication. Action items are presented to make the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), the El Paso Intelligence

Center (EPIC), and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) more effective in their missions.

- The DCI Crime and Narcotics Center will remain the principal center for *foreign strategic* counterdrug analysis and for coordinating Intelligence Community support to U.S. foreign counterdrug activities;
- NDIC will become the principal center for *domestic strategic* counterdrug analysis in support of policymakers and resource planners;
- EPIC will be strengthened as the principal center for *operational and investigative* intelligence analysis of illicit drug movements in support of interdiction activities and U.S. law enforcement; and,
- FinCEN will be strengthened as the principal center for *strategic* analysis of narcotics-related *financial* crimes and for *investigative* support to law enforcement concerning financial crimes.

Regional, State, and Local Cooperation: The GCIP promotes Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement information sharing. It also leverages successes such as Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) task forces, U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETFs), High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs), the High-Risk Money-Laundering and Related Financial Crimes Areas (HIFCAs), and the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) to maximize interagency cooperation. Specific proposals include a call for Federal law enforcement agencies and HIDTAs in major metropolitan areas to bring counterdrug intelligence analysts together into colocated, consolidated intelligence centers; to enhance interagency enforcement and information sharing; to streamline production of area drug threat assessments; to consolidate drug seizure data; and, to better exploit seized documents.

Foreign Coordination: The GCIP promotes a more robust international counterdrug effort within U.S. Missions and between the United States and its counterdrug partners. Included are proposals to improve leadership and coordination of counterdrug components in U.S. Missions; improve counterdrug intelligence dissemination to host nations; ensure adequate levels of U.S. Customs Service personnel overseas to enhance intelligence on foreign commercial drug smuggling activities; ensure adequate numbers of drug law enforcement analytic personnel overseas; increase attention to foreign drug-related illicit finances; and, clarify legal and policy guidelines on law enforcement and intelligence coordination.

Analytic Personnel Development and Training: Specific measures will standardize professional career development paths for Federal law enforcement intelligence analysts and enhance the broader dissemination of sanitized intelligence from law enforcement investigative reporting. In addition, actions are presented to standardize and improve drug intelligence training and education.

Information Technology: An effective drug intelligence system requires a firm information technology foundation to enable all drug intelligence analysts with the appropriate clearances to readily obtain the information they need to do their jobs. Accomplishing this requires: formation of an interagency group to guide and coordinate automation upgrades and connectivity policies and initiatives; completion of a detailed schedule for implementing specific architectural upgrades; and, improvement of the technical capabilities and interactions among NDIC, EPIC, FinCEN, and law enforcement at all levels.